



Statement to the 68th World Health Assembly on Agenda item 13.1 - Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Assembly. I am speaking on behalf of the World Obesity Federation, as well as a number of other NGOs including Consumers International, International Diabetes Federation, World Cancer Research Fund International, World Public Health Nutrition Association, HelpAge International, World Action on Salt & Health, European Heart Network, UK Health Forum, The Healthy Latin America Coalition, The InterAmerican Heart Foundation, Action on Sugar and the Public Health Institute.

As a group of NGOs with an interest in nutrition and health, we welcome the recent focus on nutrition through the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the wider non-communicable disease (NCD) agenda. In particular, we support the efforts to address malnutrition in all its forms, recognising that 12 of the top 20 global disease risk factors are nutrition-related and can only be comprehensively addressed through strengthening and creating healthy and sustainable food systems. We strongly urge the World Health Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, as well as the Framework for Action from ICN2.

To help realize the ICN2 commitments and achieve the goal to ‘end malnutrition in all its forms’ we call on Member States to consider a framework convention as an opportunity to protect and promote healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems. This could use a similar mechanism to the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control which has already proved successful in reducing tobacco use. Such a convention would need to be developed by governments, without the influence of commercial interests.

Finally, given the renewed focus on diet-related disease, we would like to take this opportunity to voice our support for the WHO Guideline ***Sugars intake for adults and children*** published earlier this year which identified the public health benefits of reducing population consumption of added sugar to 5% of daily energy intake. We would also like to commend the supporting work on nutrition being done by the WHO regional offices, including WHO Europe’s ***Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020*** and ***Nutrient Profile model***, and PAHO’s ***Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents***.

Thank you

